



community success initiative

HELPING INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES MOVE FROM WHERE THEY ARE TO WHERE THEY WANT TO BE

## William Burton

Born Jan 4, 1944, yours truly William D. Burton was prayed into the Ministry by the Founder of The Church Of God In Christ, Bishop CH Mason at Mason Temple in Memphis Tn. Who knew that by age 21 I would be charged and would plead guilty to a \$50,000 embezzlement from Equitable Savings & Loan. By the time the FBI and Secret Service placed my name on their list as a person of interest, I had leveraged the stolen booty into four pieces of residential income property, owned my own home mortgage free, and was driving a brand new 1967 425 hp Corvette Stingray!



I also owned two immaculate 1937 Chevrolet sedans in almost show room condition, a 450 Honda motorcycle, and two pick up trucks. I was sentenced to 5 years and sent to Lompoc, California. where I soon became one of the go to drug dealers inside. I learned the how penitentiary life worked very quickly and was once taken to solitary confinement, the hole, after getting in a fight with a member of the 300 pound club, (that is someone who can bench press 300 pounds), not for winning all of his currency and cigarettes in a poker game, but for taunting him after the win! When we were extracted from the hole and brought before the Captain I was asked if this was the gentleman I was fighting with? My reply was that I had never seen this gentleman before in my life although my dried blood was covering both of us! The Captain started to laugh so hard that I started to laugh and so did everyone else in the room including my former foe! After that, I was completely accepted by my peer group!

Three years after my release, I was standing before a judge again, being charged with 6 counts of counterfeiting! This time there was a 15 year potential sentence for each count! As grace would have it, the Secret Service and the FBI could not seem to get their stories together. After 22 people had testified against me, it seems that the judge became suspicious of witness coaching, and threw out all charges except two counts and gave me two 5 year sentences which ran together as one!

After that arrest, 'stick a fork in me, I'm done', was my basic attitude! As I sat there in the county jail looking at 90 year potential sentence, I was under the impression that my life as a free man was over! I clearly remember the prayer that I prayed sitting there in the cell! "I said God, you do not owe me a thing. As busy as you are, you warned me that I did not have to steal! (I felt that God had literally spoken to me with these simple words, ("YOU DO NOT HAVE TO STEAL!" ) I then continued that if you help me get out just long enough to get my pregnant wife and child situated, I did not care what happened to me after that!

My new life is now so unbelievable to me that I can only revel as I tell the story! It seems that a prerequisite for finding your SPIRITUAL self is being truthful enough to take full responsibility for your life instead of blaming God, Society, Relatives, The System, The Government, Karma or what have you! At 30 I bought a guitar and, by 31, I had written about 50 songs and had performed some of them at a private party for the legendary singer song-writer Cat Stevens. I then went on to perform on the Streets of San Francisco, sometimes earning up to \$200 in one day! I opened for both the late great Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker on tour. Music mogul Mr. Bill Graham's people found me performing for tips in the parking lot of Grateful Dead Concerts at the Oakland Coliseum and placed me as an opening act for none other than Steven Stills, formerly of Crosby Stills Nash & Young.

At the same time I was getting a name as a motivational speaker trainer, and had the privilege speaking to the Junior Chamber Of Commerce at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco. This was the first time I was dubbed 'Dr. Burton' even though I do not have a PHD. The young man introducing me stated, "Dr. Burton was introduced to a capacity crowd by none other than Les Brown, motivational speaker who earned almost 100 Million dollars speaking! Dr. Burton was Outpatient care Facilitator for HIV & Epidemiology at Highland Hospital, Trauma Center of Alameda County, Oakland, and Senior AIDS Councilor at UC Medical Center, San Francisco, Ca.

Dr. Burton has opened for Jack Canfield of 'Chicken Soup For The Soul' fame, Dr. Depak Chopra, Wayne Dyer, PHD, Dennis Waitley, PHD, Dr. David Spangler, Co-Founder of the Findhorn Community, Marilyn Ferguson, author and Patricia Sun. I was also blessed to be the first National Director Of Marketing for the Black Wall street Journal, I was placed on the summer faculty three summers in secession for UNC's Governors Academy Of Prevention Professionals. I was the assistant Director for Walden House, a dual diagnostic therapeutic Community in San Francisco.

I have lectured in 15 universities including, UNC, NC State, Ohio State, UC Medical Center, Elon College, Shaw University, St. Augustine University, UC Hayward, Ca., presenting personal empowerment workshops like 'Living Like The Children Are Watching', 'The Science Of Being Free' which was the title of numerous radio and TV shows I have produced and hosted! My favorite thing is to teach people how to find their UFO's, their 'Unidentified Forgiveness Opportunities'.

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